country and uphold the right to life and liberty; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to find out the number of such persons still languishing in the jails of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information received from the Government of West Bengal, one female child, aged 5 years, was admitted at SSM Home, Liluah on the basis of a Court order dated 30.3.1990, as there was no one to look after her after the murder of her mother by her father in her presence. For her education and proper care, she was subsequently sent to another Child Care Home where she is still studying, besides taking vocational training.

(c) and (d) "Prisons" is a State subject. It is essentially for the State Governments to ensure that prisoners are attended to in a humane manner. However, the Central Government has been sending advisories to the State Governments and providing them financial assistance in order to improve their prison infrastructure. Apart from this, the Central Government has been encouraging the State Governemtns to take such steps as are necessary to strengthen the criminal justice system.

Activities of Fundamentalist Organisations in Tamilnadu

2317. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been spurt in anti-national and other such activities by some fundamentalist organisations like the Al-Umma in Tamil Nadu which attempted to target top leaders in the recent bomb blasts in Coimbatore;

(b) if so, since when these organisation were active;

(c) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu had ever requested Government to ban such organisations at the national level; and

(d) the steps taken to counter the alleged role of ISI in these blasts?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) There has been a perceptible increase in the activities of fundamentalist organisations in Tamil Nadu in the recent past. The Islamic fundamentalist organisations, such as Al-Ummah, have recourse to explosives from 1991 onwards. Coimbatore, which had a history of communal tension for nearly two decades, withnessed violence in Nov./Dec.-97 and a series of bomb blasts rocked the city on 14th Feb., 98. Investigations into these incidents revealed that the bomb blasts were planned and executed by fundamentalist outfits like Al-Ummah. The role of ISI in these bomb plasts in still under investigation. The State Govt. has banned Al-Ummah and All India Jehad Committee and some of their leaders have been arrested under NSA. The State Govt. has also requested for banning these organisations at the national level. Advice of Ministry of Law in the matter has been sought.

Security Cordon for VIPs

2318. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently reviewed the category of security cordon provided to the political VIPs;

(b) if so, the details of the review exercise and the follow-up action taken thereon;

(c) the details of the names of the VIPs, the pre-review and post-review category of security provided to them; and